

American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005



Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: DECEMBER 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month

period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

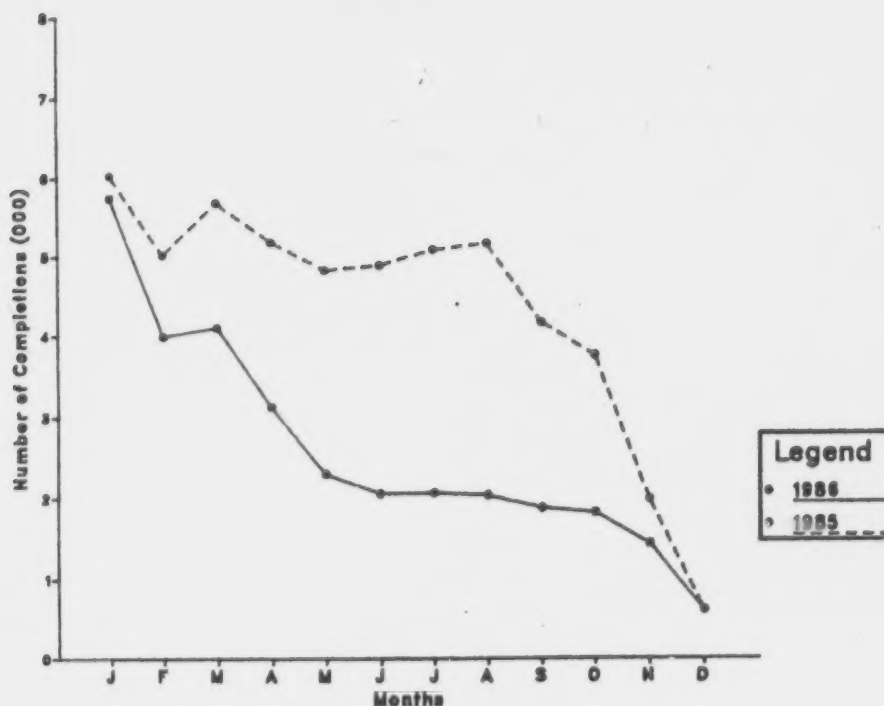


TABLE 1: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES
BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF DECEMBER 26, 1986¹

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS ⁴	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	15,266	63,276,289	5,534	31,385,160	10,275	51,875,516	31,075	146,536,965	31,533	148,169,807
1986: DEC	235	915,266	49	311,730	328	1,559,476	612	2,786,472	617	2,804,838
NOV	637	2,402,394	153	1,043,122	640	3,324,189	1,430	6,769,705	1,447	6,828,282
OCT	824	3,173,381	319	1,838,295	669	3,361,776	1,812	8,373,452	1,842	8,478,348
SEP	824	3,376,336	375	2,080,710	669	3,390,469	1,868	8,847,515	1,884	8,903,306
AUG	810	3,492,231	430	2,244,157	786	3,628,584	2,026	9,364,972	2,053	9,455,579
JUL	849	3,772,694	453	2,278,742	753	3,741,403	2,055	9,792,839	2,095	9,924,525
JUN	887	3,729,018	442	2,427,008	714	3,422,115	2,043	9,578,144	2,073	9,688,465
MAY	1,048	4,786,246	442	2,589,756	798	4,107,784	2,288	11,483,786	2,343	11,694,792
APR	1,588	7,101,602	589	3,607,940	942	4,736,115	3,119	15,445,657	3,169	15,644,873
MAR	2,209	9,378,392	671	3,989,471	1,214	5,977,482	4,094	19,345,345	4,144	19,500,870
FEB	2,226	9,496,882	656	3,876,779	1,104	6,117,472	3,986	19,491,133	4,046	19,724,185
JAN	3,129	11,651,847	955	5,097,450	1,658	8,508,648	5,742	25,257,945	5,820	25,520,244
TOTAL 1985	34,982	138,401,421	12,334	68,301,332	20,420	101,016,500	67,736	307,719,253	69,335	312,741,002
1985: DEC	2,705	10,931,472	871	4,923,930	1,743	8,964,916	5,319	24,820,318	5,399	25,118,925
NOV	2,500	9,961,091	857	4,929,514	1,494	7,394,658	4,851	22,285,263	4,923	22,556,974
OCT	2,911	11,491,214	1,172	6,002,134	1,706	8,279,646	5,789	25,772,994	5,880	26,096,067
SEP	2,751	10,459,872	1,051	5,482,603	1,668	8,137,015	5,470	24,079,490	5,560	24,331,457
AUG	3,237	12,351,584	1,091	5,878,155	1,866	8,821,606	6,194	27,051,345	6,288	27,318,153
JUL	3,031	11,195,685	1,064	5,840,665	1,777	8,326,505	5,872	25,362,855	6,029	25,806,254
JUN	2,886	11,095,842	1,001	5,377,818	1,625	7,632,906	5,512	24,106,566	5,657	24,562,317
MAY	2,814	11,541,985	895	5,017,008	1,629	8,122,506	5,338	24,681,499	5,533	25,274,852
APR	2,909	11,696,716	979	5,708,238	1,691	8,414,714	5,579	25,819,668	5,731	26,242,465
MAR	3,195	12,984,487	1,087	6,236,167	1,785	8,830,226	6,067	28,050,880	6,273	28,597,162
FEB	2,785	11,565,647	1,077	6,160,826	1,495	7,806,560	5,357	25,533,033	5,494	25,985,615
JAN	3,258	13,125,826	1,189	6,744,274	1,941	10,285,242	6,388	30,155,342	6,568	30,850,761
TOTAL 1984	43,515	165,715,596	14,627	80,430,760	24,864	117,704,092	83,006	363,850,448	85,196	369,582,362
1984: DEC	3,572	13,257,777	1,313	6,859,330	2,089	10,490,937	6,974	30,608,044	7,156	31,078,619
NOV	3,701	13,840,332	1,402	7,092,487	2,007	9,767,767	7,110	30,700,536	7,287	31,182,740
OCT	3,724	14,701,072	1,348	7,278,731	2,046	9,623,994	7,118	31,603,797	7,350	32,268,256
SEP	3,633	13,334,037	1,233	6,527,688	2,072	9,466,166	6,938	29,327,891	7,079	29,699,372
AUG	3,857	14,126,213	1,390	7,456,675	2,503	11,195,100	7,750	32,777,988	7,952	33,378,981
JUL	3,896	14,566,318	1,248	7,027,901	2,270	10,228,853	7,414	31,823,072	7,600	32,311,990
JUN	3,856	14,181,664	1,307	6,951,162	2,330	10,435,686	7,493	31,568,512	7,682	32,043,372
MAY	3,681	14,121,889	1,168	6,678,339	1,948	9,449,245	6,797	30,249,473	6,978	30,670,793
APR	3,225	12,146,874	860	5,338,143	1,708	8,389,517	5,793	25,874,534	5,993	26,336,419
MAR	3,391	13,536,794	1,035	6,421,547	1,786	8,899,202	6,212	28,857,543	6,389	29,292,548
FEB	3,395	13,447,552	1,128	6,178,456	1,806	8,838,383	6,329	28,464,391	6,487	28,899,298
JAN	3,584	14,455,074	1,195	6,620,301	2,299	10,919,242	7,078	31,994,617	7,243	32,419,974
TOTAL 1983	38,130	140,534,357	12,646	69,594,597	23,590	103,198,859	74,366	313,327,813	76,395	318,093,922
TOTAL 1982	40,182	152,851,601	17,167	99,160,005	25,844	122,108,105	83,193	374,119,711	85,426	379,401,113

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES
BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF DECEMBER 26, 1986¹

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	892	5,366,408	601	4,076,499	4,594	26,194,415	6,087	35,637,322
1986: DEC	12	78,846	5	22,516	169	780,134	186	881,496
NOV	28	176,977	23	136,377	319	1,713,665	370	2,027,019
OCT	39	251,758	29	196,852	309	1,733,430	377	2,182,040
SEP	36	151,202	45	235,657	284	1,587,834	365	1,974,693
AUG	52	277,777	44	287,386	337	1,793,686	433	2,358,849
JUL	70	396,621	54	314,901	330	1,758,028	454	2,469,550
JUN	56	303,917	46	292,040	285	1,620,611	387	2,216,568
MAY	76	432,513	44	370,758	390	2,242,913	500	3,046,184
APR	99	688,941	62	509,377	414	2,401,597	575	3,599,915
MAR	118	780,665	72	569,188	533	3,077,084	723	4,426,937
FEB	119	745,854	76	544,112	493	3,146,527	688	4,436,493
JAN	187	1,081,337	101	597,335	741	4,338,906	1,029	6,017,578
TOTAL 1985	1,771	10,232,301	1,243	8,348,847	8,971	49,359,759	11,985	67,940,907
1985: DEC	147	853,819	83	569,243	841	4,774,643	1,071	6,197,705
NOV	109	644,180	88	657,075	675	3,699,382	872	5,000,637
OCT	146	815,503	85	489,497	770	4,076,368	1,001	5,381,368
SEP	121	653,333	77	528,320	738	3,972,873	936	5,154,526
AUG	173	1,012,870	96	626,083	814	4,239,820	1,083	5,878,773
JUL	140	799,149	91	587,364	751	3,919,810	982	5,306,323
JUN	129	657,974	114	817,000	690	3,460,538	933	4,935,512
MAY	155	900,587	123	779,966	682	3,813,115	960	5,493,668
APR	129	713,574	113	772,762	717	4,065,548	959	5,551,884
MAR	183	1,100,015	108	693,692	736	4,150,164	1,027	5,943,871
FEB	164	1,026,618	120	841,371	686	4,056,365	970	5,924,354
JAN	175	1,054,679	145	986,474	871	5,131,133	1,191	7,172,286
TOTAL 1984	2,320	12,569,417	1,565	9,858,157	11,064	58,384,218	14,949	80,811,792
1984: DEC	157	801,052	105	584,011	949	5,434,722	1,211	6,819,785
NOV	179	988,586	111	666,224	865	4,753,817	1,155	6,408,627
OCT	159	825,650	140	898,937	961	4,859,978	1,260	6,584,565
SEP	216	1,170,730	129	871,775	908	4,606,902	1,253	6,649,407
AUG	187	998,761	124	806,449	1,075	5,537,338	1,386	7,342,548
JUL	191	992,533	153	1,011,495	1,062	5,235,591	1,406	7,239,619
JUN	201	1,137,164	135	786,190	1,078	5,330,407	1,414	7,253,761
MAY	215	1,169,523	134	841,878	845	4,622,042	1,194	6,633,443
APR	156	918,420	99	678,757	755	4,062,923	1,010	5,660,100
MAR	217	1,209,627	153	1,035,629	743	4,181,409	1,113	6,426,665
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	812	4,442,097	1,168	6,494,638
JAN	236	1,193,956	132	787,686	1,011	5,316,992	1,379	7,298,634
TOTAL 1983	2,140	10,647,437	1,619	10,116,645	10,062	48,344,516	13,821	69,108,598
TOTAL 1982	2,488	13,516,127	2,132	14,616,499	11,222	60,274,438	15,842	88,407,064

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS¹ BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR
REPORTED TO THE API DURING DECEMBER 1986

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED ⁴ CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	968	3,711,863	462	2,552,550	760	3,607,868	2,190	9,872,281	2,241	10,032,659
1986: DEC	235	915,266	49	311,730	328	1,559,476	612	2,786,472	617	2,804,838
NOV	380	1,512,237	109	756,229	253	1,350,635	742	3,619,101	755	3,662,514
OCT	132	588,360	85	472,901	66	278,760	283	1,340,021	298	1,395,098
SEP	62	187,075	84	380,780	30	129,446	176	697,301	178	700,449
AUG	44	137,227	46	231,446	23	66,545	113	435,218	114	436,108
JUL	28	101,296	21	85,733	15	31,048	64	218,077	66	223,908
JUN	17	55,681	20	74,262	7	54,206	44	184,149	46	188,047
MAY	12	37,818	10	43,606	9	29,193	30	110,617	39	133,272
APR	17	50,631	9	53,962	6	26,914	32	131,507	33	134,357
MAR	15	54,041	11	40,485	9	33,749	35	128,275	36	132,525
FEB	9	27,320	6	34,415	6	9,588	21	71,323	21	71,323
JAN	17	44,911	12	67,001	9	38,308	38	150,220	38	150,220
TOTAL 1985	68	140,141	41	244,504	42	152,408	151	537,053	152	537,604
1985: DEC	7	27,107	7	53,474	8	26,624	22	107,205	22	107,205
NOV	8	28,459	4	9,319	2	4,157	14	41,935	14	41,935
OCT	4	4,366	9	42,693	2	1,973	15	49,032	15	49,032
SEP	8	17,850	4	29,882	3	5,550	15	53,282	15	53,282
AUG	6	14,855	2	21,603	3	8,119	11	44,577	11	44,577
JUL	9	10,413	2	7,720	3	29,228	14	47,361	14	47,361
JUN	12	15,572	2	5,000	4	14,000	18	34,572	18	34,572
MAY	9	7,099	2	16,046	0	0	11	23,145	11	23,145
APR	1	3,820	3	12,920	6	26,040	10	42,780	10	42,780
MAR	1	798	2	12,643	6	14,457	9	27,898	10	28,449
FEB	1	2,965	0	0	1	2,045	2	5,010	2	5,010
JAN	2	6,837	4	33,204	4	20,215	10	60,256	10	60,256
TOTAL 1984	25	91,544	14	51,846	19	67,321	58	210,711	58	210,711
1984: DEC	1	1,847	3	12,059	3	12,755	7	26,661	7	26,661
NOV	1	5,200	0	0	6	28,027	7	33,227	7	33,227
OCT	1	6,140	1	7,294	4	13,996	6	27,430	6	27,430
SEP	2	2,385	1	3,929	1	740	4	7,054	4	7,054
AUG	3	15,039	1	2,881	1	1,200	5	19,120	5	19,120
JUL	2	8,528	4	15,112	0	0	6	23,640	6	23,640
JUN	5	7,775	2	7,160	1	315	8	15,250	8	15,250
MAY	1	901	0	0	1	2,830	2	3,731	2	3,731
APR	3	21,127	1	3,197	0	0	4	24,324	4	24,324
MAR	3	12,290	1	214	1	5,500	5	18,004	5	18,004
FEB	1	6,952	0	0	0	0	1	6,952	1	6,952
JAN	2	3,360	0	0	1	1,958	3	5,318	3	5,318
TOTAL 1983	8	19,857	7	32,502	25	91,157	40	143,516	41	150,077
VRS PRIOR TO 1983	10	27,473	4	18,032	15	51,551	29	97,056	30	99,165
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED ⁵	1,079	3,990,878	528	2,899,434	861	3,970,305	2,468	10,860,617	2,522	11,030,216

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of December 26, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.
2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.
3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.
4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.
2. See footnote (2) above.
3. See footnote (3) above.
4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.
5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period November 29, 1986 through December 26, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

- 1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005